

FEBRUARY 1994

# THE GROUNDWAVE



NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1994

Club Call VE3RC

Repeater VE2CRA



Official Bulletin of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Box 8873, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3J2

President	Paul Coverdale, VE3ICV	820-6643	763-4277
Vice-President	Roger Swickis, VE3BZR	234-9836	228-6310
Secretary	Johnny Mroz, VE3EIE	729-0411	
Treasurer	George Roach, BE3BNO	234-0885	738-2372
Past-President	Peter Jago, VE3PWJ	836-1013	
Directors	Ken Willing, VE3CCV	733-9140	225-9776
	Doug Yuill, VE3OCU	820-3202	
	Barry Hall, VE3BXH		
Packet Group Chairman	Eric Taada, VE3SGG	749-4264	998-9805
Repeater Chairman	Harrie Jones, VE3HYS	739-9365	738-2372
Net Manager	Wayne Greenough, VE3JSQ	836-5320	724-5464
EMI Committee Chairman	Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM	825-1634	225-2850
Membership Chairman	Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW	225-3275	953-0638
Nat. Cap. Award Manager	Brian Summers, VE3JKZ	523-1535	738-6263
Publicity	Mike Pilon, VE3BUP	731-1567	
Groundwave Editor	Mike James, VE3PDE	592-2962	995-2730
Graphic Designer	Maria Townson, VE3KIP	828-9573	
Production Committee	Paul Campbell, VE3CEP	733-0148	
	Chuck Baker, VE3PAP	824-1941	
	Ted May, VE3ADZ	741-0862	
Delegated Examiners	Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW	225-3275	
	Mike Kelly, VE3FFK		788-2600

THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. is an association of Radio Amateurs devoted to the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications in the National Capital Area; and to the advancement and achievement of club members.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the OARC, Inc., are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in the Champlain Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of the RMOC HQ complex on Lisgar St., Ottawa, at 1915 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

THE OARC EXECUTIVE normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1930 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date of the next meeting.

PACKET RADIO MEETINGS will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of every 2nd month, starting September 1993, at the Museum of Science and Technology. This is an OARC technical meeting open to all who have an interest in packet radio.

DEADLINE FOR COPY is the second Wednesday of each month. Make yourself better known to fellow members and other amateurs, too, by giving us an article, technical or otherwise, relative to our hobby.

MATERIAL PUBLISHED herein does not necessarily represent the official OARC viewpoint. Items may be reprinted by Amateur Radio or other publications provided that proper credit is given to the author and to the OARC, Inc.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS - To encourage young people to join the club and to participate in amateur radio, the club is opening a junior class of membership. Dues will be at a 50% discount but the junior member must pick up his/her copy of the Groundwave (preferably at the meeting).

RADIO AMATEUR CALL BOOKS are available at many local libraries. Ask at the information desk.

SAFETY BELTS AND AN ENGRAVING PENCIL are available for loan to club members. The engraving pencil (to mark valuables for identification in case of loss or theft)

and the safety belts with pole straps are available to any members. For the belts, a refundable deposit consisting of a cheque equal to the replacement value of the belts is required. Contact the President for the engraving pencil; and Paul, VE3ICV, at 820-6643 (West End) or Brian, VE3JKZ, at 523-1535 (East End) for the belts.

THE CAPITAL CITY NET meets every Monday at 2000 hours on the Club Repeater VE2CRA (146.34/.94) to pass traffic and to make announcements of interest to amateurs in the National Capital Region.

PACKET RADIO VOICE NET meets following the Capital City Net on VE2CRA at 2040 hours. This is an informal net to answer questions about packet radio, pass along operating hints and provide information for future packet operators.

THE SWAP NET is a service provided and conducted by Ed Morgan, VE3GX. This feature appears on the Capital City Net, noted in the foregoing paragraph. To list items and make inquiries, call Ed Morgan at 733-1721.

POT-HOLE NET is a SSB/HF net sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, and conducted every Sunday at 1000 hours on 3.760 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in. The Swap-Net is a regular feature.

POT-LID CW NET is an informal slow-speed CW net sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX, and meeting every Sunday, except during July and August, at 1100 hours on 3.620 Mhz, to promote interest in CW and CW procedures.

REPEATERS

VE2CRA	Voice	146.94/34
		443.300/448.300
VE3OCR	Packet	145.01(sx) Inter city links
VE3OCR	Packet	145.07(sx) Local Area net
		for QSO and Packet BBS.
56 kbps	Packet	220.55/433.55
VE3XDX	DX Info	146.25/146.85;
	Packet	145.11(SX)

For further information, please contact repeater chairman.

CONTENTS

MINUTES . . . . . 3  
 UPCOMING MEETINGS . . . . . 3  
 FOR SALE . . . . . 3  
 OARC MEMBERSHIP REPORT . . . . . 3  
 JANUARY SPEAKER . . . . . 4  
 WHAT WAS THAT? . . . . . 5  
 SPECIAL FROM THE NEPEAN CLARION . . 6  
 HOME BREW NIGHT . . . . . 6  
 CANADIAN SKI MARATHON . . . . . 7  
 RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA . . . . . 8  
 mk's WORDS . . . . . 10

Speaker

Paul introduced the main speaker for the evening, George Roach, VE3BNO, who talked about the building of the CFRA/KOOL studio.

See the write-up elsewhere in the Groundwave for a summary of George's talk.

Close

The meeting adjourned at approximately 21:00 for coffee.

Respectfully submitted, Johnny Mroz, VE3EIE

MINUTES OF OARC GENERAL MEETING  
 HELD JANUARY 5, 1994

Welcome

The meeting was opened with a welcome to all on a cold night in January by Paul Coverdale, VE3ICV, president, at 19:35.

Visitors

Visitors welcomed to the meeting included: Gordon, VE3VSQ, a graduate of the OARC basic course this summer, and David, VE3UOL. Paul invited the visitors to remain after the meeting for a free coffee.

Announcements

The first RAC convention and general meeting will be held in Calgary on July 29-31, 1994. Flyers were available at the front.

Canadian Ski Marathon

Harrie Jones, VE3HYS, was soliciting volunteers for the Canadian Ski Marathon. It will be held on Feb. 12-13, 1994, and run from Gatineau to Lachute. A sign-up sheet was available for members. If you are interested, call Harrie at home, 739-9365, or at work, 738-2372.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- February: Larry Abbott - Emergency Measures
- March: Hugo Kneve, VE3KTN - Satellite Communication
- April: Home Brew Night
- May: TBA
- June: Annual General Meeting, Elections, Field Day

FOR SALE

TS-950s with digital option installed, a MC-60 desk mike and a headset/boom mike for \$2800. Also available is a Kenwood PC-1A phone patch controller for \$75. Interested? Call Richard, VE3UNW, at 225-3275.

OARC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership currently stands at 172 members -- and still growing!

JANUARY SPEAKER

Guest Speaker: George Roach, VE3BNO.

Topic:

Building a commercial radio studio from the ground up or "Quality in means quality out".

Background:

George has worked with the Ottawa commercial radio station CFRA\Kool-FM for as long as most people can remember him. Most of us rarely wonder about the behind the scenes activities in such a station as CFRA\Kool-FM, but we know for certain that George has seen the lion's share of them.

Introduction:

During George's talk about the building of the newest facilities for CFRA\Kool-FM, I was impressed by the attention to detail that was taken to isolate acoustical and mechanical vibrations. Like other ham operators, I do not want an echoing hamshack nor do I like listening to those stations that sound to me like a man talking in a fishbowl. George opened my ears to the precautions taken to ensure that the voice broadcast from a commercial radio station sounds no different than if the broadcaster was sitting beside me.

How do they do it? They let George do it.

Mechanical vibrations:

The first thing to inspect before building a commercial radio station is the site. George explained that the CFRA\Kool-FM site was built on good old Ottawa bog. Ottawa bog is several metres of good, solid soil over a base of wet soil. Think of it like the skin of a drum because it acts in a similar way. Have you ever felt the ground shake when a car, bus, or truck drives over a

manhole cover? Welcome to Ottawa. The CFRA\Kool-FM site, on the corner of busy Walkley Road and busy Conroy Road, meant that a special kind of building foundation would be required.

The building foundation was designed to isolate the studio rooms from the mechanical vibrations while providing a stable footing for the building itself. To provide a stable footing for the CFRA\Kool-FM building, a crushed stone layer was laid out in the shape of the floor plan and then the support pillars for the 24,000 square foot steel frame building were erected. Next, the areas where the studios would be located were covered with a special cushioning material. This special cushioning material acts like a shock absorber in your car, to smooth out the ride. Now that road noise from the traffic nearby is isolated from the studios, how do we isolate the studios from one another?

Acoustical vibrations:

The studios in CFRA\Kool-FM are so acoustically isolated that loud music playing in one studio cannot be heard in the studio next door - even though there are windows between them. After hearing George tell how they made the studios, I am not surprised.

Again it starts with the foundation. The special cushioning material for each studio and the concrete floor that is poured on top, is mechanically isolated from those of the other studios. This way, each studio is an island, and what goes on in one place does not go on in another, so that if there was any dancing to that loud music playing in the studio next door, the dance steps and music cannot be felt in our studio. This quieting effect also holds true when studio doors are opening and closing.

I wouldn't want the studio doors to be in every room of my home, but they are a necessity in every studio in a commercial radio station. Studio doors are placed

close together like the outside storm door is placed in front of the inner door to a home. Each door is mounted onto a separate foundation; the inner door on the studios' foundations and the outer door on the building's. That way people can enter but vibrations stay out. These doors are mounted to walls and these walls are also built on a separate foundation; inner walls on the studios' foundations and the others on the building's. Like homes, studios need windows, but theirs are special.

I'd like studio style windows in my home because they keep the noise out and let the view in. These windows are mounted in the walls like the doors are, each half of the window in each wall. The panes are glazed with felt and the inner pane of glass is tilted off the vertical. Since glass is a good acoustical reflector, this tilt reflects the sound up and into the special acoustic tiles that absorb reflected sounds.

The placement and surface area of these acoustic tiles are figured out by a computer program. Each studio is different acoustically because the furniture and equipment differ according to the studio's purpose - an interviewer's studio is different from a newsman's and a disc jockey's. George says that the colour of these acoustic tiles was scientifically chosen to be appealing to the eye.

#### Services:

Each studio is a separate building within a bigger building, but as George tells us, the people inside the studio have got to be comfortable so the climate control systems are special too.

The only concrete slab on the roof of CFRA\Kool-FM's new facilities was poured especially for the air exchanger. This massive piece of concrete in the roof dampens most of the mechanical vibrations that come from this kind of equipment. Inside the building, sound traps are

placed inside the ductwork to dampen the noise of the rushing air currents produced from the constant velocity climate control system. As ham operators, we've become used to background noises coming across in each other's conversation - our noise floor is quite high, but when listening to a commercial radio station, we don't want to hear their furnace at work. Now that the climate is taken care of, how are the electrical services made to each studio?

Earlier on in the preparation of the foundation, conduiting was laid into the crushed stone layer. The adage, "It is better to have it and not use it than to need it and not have it", must have been in George's thoughts because extra conduiting was laid in anticipation of future needs. To stop mechanical vibrations coming along it then into each room and studio, the conduiting is also isolated from the foundation.

#### The result:

CFRA\Kool-FM's new facility keeps vibrations of any kind outside from passing into their studios, even from the jets on one of the Ottawa airport glidepaths overhead. What you hear over the air from a commercial radio station like CFRA\Kool-FM is what they want you to hear.

And yes, you can find George (VE3BNO) still taking care of this station. He's now involved in the erection of the new CFRA towers by Hwy. 16 near Manotick. But that's another story.

by Johnny Mroz, VE3EIE

#### WHAT WAS THAT?

Seen by a club member recently on Merivale Road:

Brass Monkey for sale... some parts missing!

SPECIAL FROM THE NEPEAN CLARION

This article originally appeared in the January 9, 1994, edition of The Clarion and is reprinted with permission.

Barrhaven resident Alexis Hum finds the radio frequency levels from Energy 1200-CFGO a too frequent interruption in her daily life.

During the 10 years Hum has lived in Barrhaven, she has wrapped up many a telephone cord for fancy telephones that didn't work because the signals coming through on her line from the broadcast station were too unbearable. When the family bought their first VCR they had to put it in a cookie tin, because it wouldn't work otherwise,

And when the CBC entered her home to do a story on her situation about three years ago, they had trouble using their equipment to tape the interview.

Hum lives right behind the Loeb grocery store on Fallowfield Road, about 1,000 feet from Energy 1200-CFGO, which is located on Carling Avenue.

"Houses should never have been built here," she says. "We should have been warned. Nepean should never have allowed this area to be zoned residential."

When her daughter's new compact disc player didn't work, Hum called Ralph Cameron, another Barrhaven resident who is chairperson of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Commission for the Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Cameron put a "toroid core," which he explains is "something like a power iron," on the power cord for the CD player. He says it works in about 90 percent of incidences.

Cameron says there are a couple of reasons why the broadcast station is interfering with other electronic devices in some Barrhaven homes. "One is the

proximity of the transmitter to the community, and the other is that the devices or applications do not have any immunity built into them," he said. "There is no mandatory requirement that be done."

Cameron says he doesn't think anything was going to be done by the city until the Carleton Board of Education was thinking of building a high school close to the broadcast towers. He says a report was done on the matter and when he tried to obtain a copy, they told him it was protected under the privacy act.

When he finally did obtain a copy of the report, Cameron said that the study found that not only would there be a problem with the electronic equipment at the school, but that it would also be a health hazard because of the radioactivity.

After the study was done, Cameron says the city decided that the tower would be moved. The station was given six years to vacate the premises, and there is now about two years remaining. Energy 1200-CFGO engineers refused comment.

"It's difficult to blame the station, and it's unfair that the transmitter should have to move," he said. "At one time there weren't so many problems until they went to their present power level."

HOME BREW NIGHT

Remember! Home Brew night is coming in April. It's not too early to start thinking about presenting your latest bit of tinkering.

Get active - Get Radio-Active!

### CANADIAN SKI MARATHON

The words "Canadian Ski Marathon" bring many visions to the minds of amateurs in the Ottawa area. The connection between the CSM and the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club began in 1974. That first year saw 36 amateurs using 10m, 6m and 2m equipment to provide the communications support needed for the logistics and safety of the Marathon. Since then over 200 different amateurs have assisted, some for a day and some for the weekend with many coming back year after year. During the 20 years that amateurs have been involved there have been many different things tried to make communications work. Teletype was used for a couple of years to pass data on .52 to the finish line for results and awards calculations. There was even a year when two gentlemen sat in a motorhome parked beside a chicken coup on a hill sipping wine. Fortunately the cross-band repeater they were tending did not need their assistance at the end of the day.

The Canadian Ski Marathon started in 1967 with about 400 skiers. It took them three days to ski from Montreal to Ottawa, a distance of 200 km. In 1968, it was changed to a two day event and about 380 skiers did the 130 km ski in rain that caused many to go thru the ice on lake and river crossings. The following years: 1969, 410 skiers and 130 km; 1970, 574 skiers, 130 km and nasty weather; 1971, 640 skiers, 130 km and -35 C; 1972, 872 skiers, 160 km and great conditions; 1973, 1,485 skiers from Lachute to Hull, a distance of 160 km; 1974, 1,782 skiers with high winds and bitter cold weather skied a distance of 160 km; 1975, 2,360 skiers and 160 km; 1976, 2,796 skiers, 160 km; 1977, 3,091 skiers, 160 km; 1978, 3,532 skiers from Lachute to Quinville, 160 km; 1979, 4,159 skiers, record cold (-52 F windchill); 1980, 3,000 skiers walked from Lachute to Montebello and back because of sunny skies and green fields; 1981, 4,138 skiers from Lachute to Ottawa; 1982, 4,332 skiers; 1983, 3,568 skiers; 1984, 3,608 skiers in freezing rain from Lachute to Ottawa; 1985, 2,356

skiers; 1986, 2,030 skiers skied from Lachute to Gatineau; 1987, 1,824 skiers had to contend with blizzard conditions; 1988, 1,650 skiers; 1989, 1,365 skiers; 1990, 1,450 skiers; 1991, 1,471 skiers with great weather and 1992 saw 1,481 skiers who had great weather Saturday and very cold temperatures on Sunday. Last year 1,470 skiers had a snowy warm day on Saturday and a bitter day on Sunday.

This year will be another first for the Marathon. We will be starting in Gatineau on Saturday and heading east to Lachute travelling the course in reverse. Every year the net needs about 35 Amateurs to provide the administrative and safety communications for the event. As always, there will be checkpoints, Admin. and Safety vehicles, and ski patrol positions to man. There are two Amateurs at each checkpoint so that the checkpoint can effectively monitor both the net frequency and 146.52 where the ski patrols and sweeps operate. We put people in various vehicles so that decisions can be made quickly and so that we can find the executive of the marathon when we need them. Last year we used packet radio to transmit the times and bib numbers of skiers as they arrived and left the last checkpoint for the finish line. We will be trying to expand this to the last two checkpoints this year.

So how about coming out to participate in the winter version of Field Day? It's just like the summer one only you don't need a generator. The guys at checkpoints are always trying to get their antennas up higher so that they can hear the sweeps sooner, (sounds like putting an antenna up to me). The Safety guys stay up all night partying, (Field Day???) The best point, of course, is that you avoid all the insects that will be there to find you in a field in June.

Are you interested? The event takes place this year on February 12 and 13. Call me at 739-9365 to volunteer yourself, your equipment or your friend.

73 de Harrie, VE3HYS

**RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA  
NEWS SERVICE**

**RAC SEEKS HELP FROM FEDERAL POLITICIANS -**  
RAC President Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, enlisted the aid of the federal opposition parties to stop the Department of Industry (DOI) from taking 220-222 MHz away from the Amateur Service. In letters to Bloc Quebecois's Lucien Bouchard, Reform's Preston Manning and NDP's Audrey McLaughlin, Hopwood described Amateur Radio operators as "victims" undermined by DOI actions. The aid of Liberal Senator Ray Perrault was also sought. Here are some excerpts from the RAC letters:

"On behalf of Radio Amateurs of Canada and 41,000 Canadian amateur radio operators, I ask you to intervene on our behalf, to have an unwise government proposal withdrawn; a proposal which would unfairly re-allocate radio frequencies now available to thousands of licenced Amateur Radio operator citizens."

Hopwood goes on to say, "...Radio Amateurs of Canada strongly object to the proposal itself, the pre-emptive action of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC); which obviously influenced DOI strategy, and the manner in which DOI is initiating a 'fait accompli' in Canada. Canadian amateur radio operators are being victimized. (Item 1, Bulletin No. 12-93.)

**REPEATER IN THE SKY CALLED A SUCCESS -** A balloon carrying a 800 milliwatt, 2-metre repeater was launched on October 30, 1993, and travelled from Hawkesbury, Ontario, to New Brunswick. VE2AW, Gerry, confirmed 374 QSO's. Other stations running nets included one in Quebec City, and Rimouski, Quebec, and then finally Carleton, New Brunswick. From Carleton VE1 operators could listen to the balloon. In advance announcements operators expected the balloon to reach heights of 20,000 to 50,000 feet.

VE2HLS and VE2UMS, Serge, is looking to confirm contacts on the Quebec, Rimouski and Carleton nets. Thanks to the Montreal Amateur Radio Club bulletin for this item. (Item 9, Bulletin No. 12-93.)

**TECHNICAL NETS -** The Scarborough Amateur Radio Club bulletin mentions three Sunday nets which may be of interest. On 14.317 MHz starting at 17:00z there is an Icom Users Net with AB4OH (Canadian sign VE3DGY), providing detailed technical support, followed at 19:00z by a Yaesu net and then at 20:00z by a Kenwood net. (Item 12, December No. 12-93.)

**CNIB AMATEUR RADIO PROGRAM CALLED A SUCCESS -** Thanks to a product called HamLink developed by Advanced Electronic Applications (AEA), a number of visually impaired amateurs in Toronto are enjoying ham radio by remote operation of a shared HF station through their touchtone phone.

Users of the system gain access using a four digit code entered from their home touchtone phone. The radio can then be turned on, mode, frequency and antenna selected and direction determined, all from their phones. There are many options including scanning and use of memories.

George Fanjoy, VE3PEB, who is directly involved with this project, says that he has talked to several visually impaired amateurs and all feel it's the best thing since sliced bread. (Item 3, Bulletin No. 01-94.)

**NOBEL WINNER ATTRIBUTES SUCCESS TO HAM RADIO -** The winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Physics, Princeton University's Dr. Joseph H. Taylor, K1JT, attributes his success in science to his early involvement in Amateur Radio, according to published news accounts.

Taylor, who shared this year's award with his former student and current Princeton colleague, Dr. Russell A. Hulse, told reporters that he developed his

scientific skills as a ham while a student at Moorestown Friends Academy in New Jersey.

Taylor earned a bachelor's degree from Haverford College in 1963 and a doctorate in astronomy from Harvard University. The Nobel committee awarded this year's physics prize to Taylor and Hulse for their study of the gigantic gravitational forces exerted by pulsars. Their results are thought by scientists to confirm many of the predictions of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

This item is from the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club bulletin and is attributed to W1AW via KT7H. (Item 4, Bulletin No. 01-94.)

CALL FOR TECHNICAL PAPERS - Radio Amateurs of Canada's first national convention is scheduled for Calgary, Alberta, July 29-31, 1994.

Papers concerning both the technical and practical aspects of ham radio are welcome in regards to HF, VHF, UHF communications methods and techniques. ATV, SSTV, Packet, PACTOR, AMTOR, RTTY, Amsat, and EME. These papers shall centre on a 30 to 45 minute presentation with a 15 minutes question and answer period from the audience. The papers shall be printed in the Technical Proceedings of the First National Convention of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

The submission schedule is as follows:

- a. Author's name and a 150 to 300 word biography. Preferably material should be submitted on computer disk in ASCII format;
- b. Paper title, introduction and abstract are due no later than February 1, 1994.
- c. First editorial draft of paper will be due no later than March 15, 1994;
- d. Final copy for printing to be due no later than April 30, 1994;
- e. Seminar presentation dates and times will be confirmed later.

For further information contact: Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, 7136 Temple Drive N.E., Calgary, Alberta T1Y 4E7. Phone (403) 280-5340. Item 9, News Bulletin 01-94.)

ARES PACKET SOFTWARE AVAILABLE - The Carmonews from Charlottetown, PEI, carries an item in their January 1994 newsletter regarding ARES packet radio software designed specifically for emergency message handling. The program was written by Larry Driskill KE7AW and David Martin WA7FFM and is available free of charge to non-profit groups involved in emergency communications, thanks to the software designers and the Utah County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Pressing F6 will automatically import an emergency message form into the editor. Here, much of the information, such as time, date, message number, is automatically added as you tab through the form. Your message is typed into a message area and, when complete, pressing F10 will automatically trigger an alarm at the connected station, turn on its printer, print out the form, then turn its printer off. The sending station receives confirmation that this has been done in the form of status messages on the screen.

If this software interests you, write Keigh McQueen N7HMF, 1087 North 506 West, Orem, Utah 84057. (Item 11, News Bulletin 01-94.)

CALGARY CONVENTION JULY 29-31, 1994 - The Calgary Amateur Radio Association is hosting the RAC 1st National Convention in July and asks that those wishing to come to the convention and stay at a campsite reserve before Feb. 28, 1994.

The convention committee has reserved a block of campsites at the nearest campground to the convention which is 9 Kms away. To reserve, either call or write to: Mountain View Farms, Site 8, P.O. Box 6, RR #6, Calgary, AB, T2M 4L5. Telephone (403) 293-6640. (Item 12, Bulletin No. 01-94.)

ARE VE LICENCE PLATES AN INVITATION TO THEFT? - According to VE3XAG, loss of mobile amateur radio equipment isn't uncommon when vehicles are marked with VE tags. He has recently had radios stolen from his car in a parking lot in the middle of the day. He says he has spoken to others with similar experience who share one thing in common, VE plates. Radios were recently stolen from amateur radio vehicles parked outside of a club meeting.

He suggests that if you have VE plates, get rid of them. Also recommended is a car alarm, and the removal of radio equipment from your vehicle when you are not in it.

Hams are reminded to be suspicious of anyone with a number of used radios for sale, often incomplete, without antennas, accessories or manuals. (Item 15, News Bulletins 01-94.)

#### mk's WORDS

Jan. 18/93 - Gosh, look at the date. Bet the editor is going to give me a blast for being late (again). At least this time, I have an excuse. Between the Christmas flu (and the holidays), and the back to school/ start of the labs routine as well as all the other stuff going on these days, there hardly seems to be any time to type anymore. I didn't get my new Ten Tec until about a week after I was back at work, and when it did arrive, it came with only one band (20 M). The others are back ordered. I haven't been able to get it to load up on my 30 M dipole, and the weather is setting records for wind chill, so I haven't put up anything else for it to work into yet. Yup, you guessed it, I have a shiny new out of the box radio sitting in the shack for weeks and no contacts on it yet.

Doing the intermod filter party hasn't helped any either. It really was a party, with around forty hams of various

vintages putting these 2 metre band pass filters together in assembly line fashion, with some people winding coils (sometimes backwards!), and others soldering, gluing, wiring or whatever. Everybody got a chance to take a break and see what the others were up to. A few people wanted to do the whole thing. They got to build theirs all by themselves. Everybody learned something, and more than a few people learned that they really can do this technical stuff. They don't have to automatically reach for the toy catalogue when they need another accessory for their station. Although we didn't tell them this, that was the main reason for holding the party in the first place. The other reason was so we wouldn't have to listen to so many people whining about how intermod makes the band unlistenable. Judging by what I've heard so far, we now have to put up with endless comments about how much more people enjoy 2 metres without pagers and police transmitters blasting them. A few people are already starting to wonder about what and when the next project will be. Some of the OF's (old pharts) are wondering how this kind of thing can be done without being sponsored by one of the clubs...just goes to show ya- there's always something old to learn.

Speaking of learning, have you figured out who is who with all these new VA3 callsigns. You really do need a program to tell the players. Fortunately Bob, VA3RCS, formerly VE3YBC has been putting together a list of Oldcall = Newcall. I hope a copy of it finds its way into this Groundwave.

Coming up, as usual, probably before you read this, the VHF-UHF sweepstakes contest Jan. 22-23 local, and another bunny hunt Jan. 29. The word is that the bunny will be sending CW this time, and not FM as usual. Stay tuned, we'll see how it goes this time. That's all for now (did I hear somebody say that's enough). See you all (well, most of you) during the Canadian Ski Marathon.

73 & think warm thoughts ..VE3FFK